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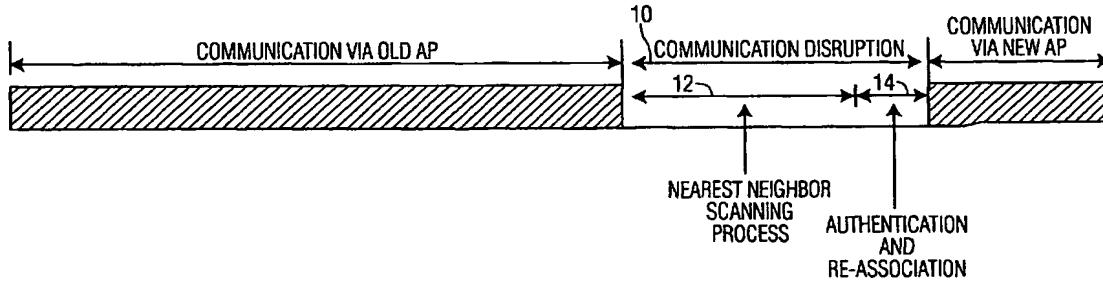
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— *with international search report*
— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING A FAST HANDOFF IN A WIRELESS LOCAL AREA NETWORK



(57) Abstract: Disclosed is a system and method for performing a fast channel scan so as to minimize the communication disruption period (10) which occurs during a handoff of a mobile station (STA) (20-23) in a wireless local area network (WLAN) (100). Each mobile station (STA) includes an associated nearest-neighbor table identifying nearest-neighbor APs (14-16) in the network to the AP with which the STA is currently associated. When a STA (20-23) performs a handoff, its nearest-neighbor table is used to perform a prioritized search of those channels of operation included in the table belonging to nearest-neighbor APs (14-16). In this manner, by prioritizing the search to first search the channels of operation belonging to nearest-neighbor APs (14-16), there is a greater likelihood of locating a candidate ap (14-16) to form an association with in less time as compared with the prior art search method of blindly searching each and every operating channel in the network.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l Application No

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H04L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	EP 0 888 026 A (NOKIA MOBILE PHONES LTD) 30 December 1998 (1998-12-30) abstract; claim 1 -----	1,18
Y	US 5 838 730 A (CRIPPS PETER K) 17 November 1998 (1998-11-17) column 26, line 45 - line 67 column 27, line 1 - line 28 column 28, line 35 - line 45 column 29, line 31 - column 30, line 61 ----- -/-	10,13, 15,17, 18,23, 26,28,30



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

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